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Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
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Dear Sir:

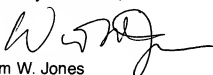
Please file a continuing patent application under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.53 (d) (2), a continuation of co-pending patent application USSN 08/976,886, filed November 27, 1997.

Please utilize the file jacket and contents of the prior application, including the specification, drawings and declaration from the prior application, to constitute the new application. Please assign the serial number of the prior application to the new application for identification purposes. Please abandon the prior application USSN 08/751,543 upon the granting of a filing date to this continuing patent application.

Please enter the accompanying preliminary amendment in the continuing application.

Our check in the amount of \$1,236.00 is enclosed in payment of the filing fees.

Respectfully submitted,


William W. Jones
Reg. No. 24,607

Date: 4-5-00

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01 FC:131
02 FC:199

690.00 DP
546.00 DP